Posted by u/itsthered1 White 30 1 year ago

HOWTO: Downgrade Zune 30 to v1.4 firmware

IMPORTANT: I am not responsible for any damages/mistakes that may occur during this tutorial.

So, you want to downgrade your Zune! No worries, it isn't as hard as you may think! This tutorial only works on Zune 30, so keep that in mind.

Prerequisites:
- v1.4 Firmware Image (can be found on CW's archive)
- zuneprod.xml (download here)

- Microsoft .NET SDK (download here)

Setting up the local web server:

In order to get the Zune software to accept the old firmware, we need to set up a directory it can access. This directory will hold the .cab firmware file and the **zuneprod.xml** file.

Navigate to a directory of your choosing and set it up like this:

\zunefirmware\firmware\v4_5

In v4_5, drop in your v1.4 .cab file and your zuneprod.xml file. I suggest naming the firmware file to something such as "v1.4" just to keep it simple. However, do NOT change the name of zuneprod.xml

Now that your directory is set up, we need to make modifications to zuneprod.xml. Open the file in a text editor of your choosing and navigate to the 10th line. You'll see this URL:

http://resources.zune.net/KeelBaseline.cab

We need to edit this URL to fit our new directory structure. Edit your link as such:

http://resources.zune.net/firmware/v4_5/v1.4.cab

dotnet serve -p 80

Your web server is now set up! Don't close the Powershell window, as doing so will turn off the server. The final step is to navigate to your hosts file, found in

C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc

Open it up in a text editor and add this to the end of the document:

127.0.0.1 resources.zune.net

Make sure you don't have any other lines using resources.zune.net, as we don't want any conflicts. Now, put your Zune into recovery mode. Be aware: this will wipe ALL music/data that is stored on the device. You can do this by holding Back + Up until the device reboots, and then Back + Left + Center once you see the Zune logo appear. Now, plug your Zune into your PC. You'll be prompted to update, and v1.4 will be flashed to your device! Eventually, your Zune will boot with the old firmware, yet your PC will continue to say that the device is still updating. You can ignore this and disconnect your Zune.

Congrats! You've downgraded your Zune to the old v1.4 firmware. Keep in mind that you'll need a Windows XP (SP3) or Vista machine to run the old software, which will allow you to sync media to the device.

Have questions? Feel free to drop them down below!

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